

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gordon Lindeen on July 15th, 2008.

2. Claims 13-17 should be amended to read as follows:

13. A machine-readable storage medium having stored thereon data representing instructions that, when executed by a processor of an Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a subscription request at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) from a user terminal through an access point of an access network;

assigning a subscription identifier to the user terminal at the ISP in response to the subscription request;

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generating at the ISP a service certificate signed by a certificate authority and that includes the subscription identifier to identify a subscription of the user terminal with the ISP;

adding the service certificate to a certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP;

receiving the service certificate from the user terminal at the ISP;

checking the service certificate against the certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP; and

providing from the ISP, to the user terminal, if the service certificate is valid, a session certificate to be used to access the access network through the access point, the session certificate having a shorter validity period than the service certificate.

14. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein receiving the service certificate comprises receiving the service certificate through the access point being used by a user terminal to access the access network.

15. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein checking the service certificate comprises searching a certificate revocation list.

16. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the session certificate is associated with a link-level session available to the user terminal.

17. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the link-level session comprises a PPP session.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's amendments filed April 14th, 2008, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record. The prior art does not teach all of the limitations of the independent claims in combination with the other elements presented.

The prior art of record teaches centralized certificate management where a central server issues certificates to minimize the latency of obtaining certificates (Ramasubramani, abstract and figs. 1-3). The prior art of record further teaches network-based encryption techniques that create a time-limited session certificate that lasts a shorter duration than a corresponding primary certificate (Hur, abstract and figs. 5a, 5b, and 6).

However, as per claims 1-20, the prior art fails to teach storing a service certificate issued by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and signed by a certificate authority, where the service certificate has a validity period and corresponds with a subscription identifier of a user terminal, where an access point used to authenticate a user to an access network is issued a session certificate by the ISP that lasts a shorter

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duration than the service certificate validity period and is used by the access point to authenticate a user to access the ISP network. These limitations, when taken in the environment of the remaining claim language, distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art of record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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/NT/
Nicholas Taylor
Examiner
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